

ED

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
14 October 1961

OCI No. 3959/61

Copy No. 54

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore of Urundi,  
the Belgian East African Trust Territory

1. Rwagasore was the leader of Urundi's UPRONA party, which won the legislative elections on 18 September; he was to head the new government which he was in process of forming. His death comes out of a background of violence between the two main ethnic groups of the area, the Tutsi and the Hutu. UPRONA represents the interests of the ruling Tutsi people, who have been predominantly anti-Belgian. Rwagasore himself was relatively moderate, however.

2. Rwagasore's killer has not been identified. The prince may have been killed by (1) radicals in his own party, (2) disgruntled elements of the group which lost the election, or (3) Hutu elements from Ruanda who have successfully ended the Tutsi regime there. Rwagasore's death may produce a more radical government in Urundi which will press for independence in the next few months. It may make the already strained relations between Ruanda and Urundi more difficult.

3. Belgian trusteeship of Ruanda-Urundi is scheduled to be discussed again during the present 16th UN General Assembly session, and more specific plans for ending the trusteeship are likely to be decided. Independence has been tentatively scheduled for April 1962. The radical African states may attempt to implicate Belgium in Rwagasore's death and will probably urge UN intervention.

4. Rwagasore and his father, the hereditary ruler of Urundi, had begun planning a trip to the United States to attend the UN sessions.

CONFIDENTIAL